

Like most of my HBCU Caucus colleagues, I have worked closely with my local HBCU to provide funding and resources needed to enable them to fulfill their mission of educating the next generation of social engineers and conducting research programs addressing issues of major concern to the African American community.

As Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection in the 111th Congress, I authored the legislation to establish a Transportation Security Center of Excellence at TSU and worked to help TSU secure \$1.2 million in funding over four years from the Department of Homeland Security for this Center of Excellence.

One of my proudest accomplishments as a member of Congress is my success in working with federal officials in the Clinton Administration to settle the lawsuit against TSU that had been pending for more than 23 years.

I was proud to spearhead the initiative that brought more than \$13 million in financial aid relief for the students and campus of Texas Southern University.

I also worked with TSU administrators to initiate digital archive projects to preserve the records of two of its most distinguished alumni, the legendary Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland, both of whom preceded me as the Member of Congress for the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas.

I was pleased to facilitate a partnership between Comcast and TSU's School of Communication to provide scholarships and internships to TSU students and in-kind marketing services to the university.

I also worked to secure funding needed to establish the Center for Transportation, Training and Research in the TSU College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, HBCU's have played a critical role in American history.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

HBCUs do not just educate—HBCUs have and will continue to fill an important role in education opportunity and engagement for millions of young people from diverse backgrounds.

As leaders of this country, the success and expansion of HBCUs and minority-serving institutions falls on our shoulders and we must act swiftly to ensure that these institutions are protected.

In an effort to maintain the legacy and educational quality of our historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, we must act urgently to ensure the proper relationships are established between all of these institutions and the Department of Homeland Security.

I ask all members to join me in voting for S. 461, the "HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act."

IN HONOR OF AZALEA CHARITIES,
INCORPORATED

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Azalea Charities Incorporated, an all volunteer charitable organization located in the First District with a dual mission of providing support to Aid to Wounded Warriors and youth and special need projects. Over the last 22 years Azalea Charities Inc., has provided over 5 million dollars of support to these two mission areas, not only here in the First District, but across the nation as well as internationally. The motto of Azalea Charities is Working Together-Giving Together.

Azalea Charities' commitment to the ideals that America stands for, their good citizenship, self-sacrifice and longevity of service are a testament to all that is best about our country. From raising funds by partnering with local corporations and businesses to participating in events such as the Marine Corps Marathon and conducting their hallmark Pro Am Azalea Classic Invitational golf tournament, Azalea Charities dedication to service is to be commended.

After two decades, Azalea Charities Inc. is bringing their charitable era to an end.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in honoring the men and women of Azalea Charities for their service to community over these past 22 years of dedicated selfless service to the citizens of our great country.

IN HONOR OF RICH GARBARINO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend and colleague Rich Garbarino: retiring from the city council of South San Francisco after 18 years and after a total of 38 years of service to the people of South San Francisco. Rich has been a steady voice of progress and leadership in the city.

Councilmember Garbarino sat on the parks commission for 18 years which resulted in new parks being developed throughout the city including Summit, Orange and Cypress parks that were constructed or thoroughly renovated.

Initial work on Centennial Way, a lengthy trail built to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city, began while Rich was a commissioner. Construction concluded years later after he joined the council. He was an enthusiastic advocate over all these years. Trail construction costs were entirely defrayed through donations.

When Rich began in public service, the east side of the city consisted of giant, abandoned steel mills worthy of any devastated war zone. As he completes his service, South San Francisco has become the biotechnology capital of the world. The steel mills were long ago swept aside to be replaced by Genentech's sprawling campuses of billions of dollars of investment and those of many other companies. One is presently researching the aging proc-

ess with the hope of defeating it, while another is tackling sickle cell anemia. A third grows specialized mosquitoes aimed at stopping the spread of Dengue fever. A fourth is farming inside a warehouse using vertical fields, robots and artificial intelligence to produce vegetables that are so tasty they fly off the shelves at supermarkets. Rich Garbarino and his colleagues encouraged tens of billions of dollars in investment in the east side through their welcoming messages to the biotechnology industry. This was transformational.

During his time in office, Rich worked hard in our State Capitol to represent other cities through the League of California Cities. He explained the need for local control over zoning and has long supported housing along the transit corridors of South San Francisco. Hundreds of apartments and condominiums have been created in just the past few years, most located along the rail and bus lines that lace South San Francisco.

He was a big supporter of Measure W, a 1/2 cent sales tax approved by voters. As these industries and housing spring up in South San Francisco, the need for more police and a new municipal center featuring a police station and library became apparent. It's paid for in part by Measure W.

Over just the past 20 years, Rich Garbarino took on nearly 40 different community service commitments including serving on the public safety policy committee, President of the League of California Cities, a member of ad hoc committees on gun control and gang violence, president of his neighborhood homeowner's association, and serving as an advisor to the president of San Francisco State University. Some respond to a call for volunteers as if a recent shoulder separation prevented them from raising their hand. Rich has persistent muscle spasms that compel his hand to fly upward.

Rich and his wife Elaine have three children, Gina, Rich Jr. and Andrea, and eight grandchildren. He is a quintessential family man, a great father and grandfather. This is also how he views his city. In Rich's eyes, every resident of South San Francisco is part of a big family, and their needs are his passion.

Some men see a city and mourn what has passed. Rich Garbarino sees his city and wonders about all that will someday come to pass. He's proud that the cure to cancer will likely be discovered in South San Francisco. He marvels that housing now being built is just the start of what's planned. He knows the downtown is on the cusp of a revival and that residents will grow safer in the future as they work towards their common good.

Madam Speaker, while the city's residents will no longer have Rich Garbarino to watch over their best interests, they have the path that he helped lay down to carry them into the future. Godspeed to the pathbreakers, and to their leader in chief, Rich Garbarino, a man who devoted his years in office to create a tomorrow for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on December 7

and 8, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 236; YEA on Roll Call No. 237; YEA on Roll Call No. 238; and YEA on Roll Call No. 239.

RECOGNIZING THE 193RD SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the outstanding Airmen of the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, for earning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award—for the 19th time. This highly prestigious award recognizes the Wing's exceptionally meritorious service from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019.

During this period, this one-of-a-kind unit deployed more than 400 Service Members globally across 20 nations, filling numerous Reserve Component Posture taskings and missions. The specialized EC-130J Commando Solo aircraft flew 115 combat missions and executed 1,009 broadcast hours, meeting all Central Command requirements while achieving an overall 1,463 sorties and 3,924 flight hours.

During the same period, the Wing also distinguished itself by deploying its world-class Airmen from their Engineering Installation, Red Horse, Security Forces, Air Operations Center, Communications, Air Support Operations and Medical units who expertly supported overseas contingency missions. Collectively, the Wing supported counter-terrorism/counter-narcotics operations as well as named Operations Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel, Spartan Shield, Atlantic Resolve, and Resolute Support, altogether advancing our military's effectiveness on the battlefield while protecting our Nation and our American way of life.

The Airmen of the 193rd Special Operations Wing consistently demonstrate excellence in their training and operations across our Nation and around the world. On behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, we're honored to be the home of such a distinguished unit, and I commend the Wing for earning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award—again. I extend my heartfelt thanks to them for their hard work, tireless dedication and steadfast service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call vote No. 239 on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have

voted Yea on H.R. 8354, Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act.

This bill would create the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Justice Department. As a United States Marine, I am strongly committed to providing for our national defense and taking care of the men and women who sacrificed everything for our freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF MARIO R. JORGE, P.E., SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT ENGINEER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. Mario R. Jorge. Mr. Jorge is retiring after serving the Texas Department of Transportation for more than 36 years.

Mr. Jorge, at the age of 12, immigrated with his family from Cuba to the United States in 1974. While it was a challenging process for him and his family, they knew they were on the right path for a better future. Among the many difficulties he personally faced, Mr. Jorge started his education in the 7th grade without being able to speak a word of English. However, with hard work and diligence he was able to overcome this obstacle. He also found that he was particularly talented in the field of mathematics. Utilizing his skill in mathematics, Mr. Jorge went on to earn a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas as well as a professional engineer's license.

Mr. Jorge began his career with TxDOT as a member of the survey crew and as a construction inspector for the Pharr District in 1983. In 1984, he was employed at the Dallas District where he worked in construction inspection and roadway design. He then transferred to the Pharr District in 1985 where he worked for several years and received the TxDOT Design Award for the US 83/281 interchange project in Pharr, before being promoted to Area Engineer in 1993. However, through his continued hard work he was eventually promoted to District Engineer for the Pharr District in 2002. It was under his leadership and guidance that the district completed the expansion and designation of over 100 miles of interstate system on I-2 and US 69, as well as several international projects. Nonetheless, after many years of service with the Pharr District, he soon became the District Engineer for the San Antonio District in 2013. In San Antonio, Mr. Jorge led the district with an even larger project delivery portfolio which included expansions on US 281, I-10 West and East, 1-35 NEX, and LP 1604 North and South, an energy sector project delivery program, and countless other initiatives with local partners and stakeholders.

I have worked with Mr. Jorge for many years and witnessed first-hand his dedication to his work. A trait that he learned from his parents, who risked their lives and worked hard to realize the American dream. I also want to recognize him for being a strong lead-

er who made sure to always treat his colleagues with respect and care. A characteristic that allowed him to be successful in all of his endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Jorge on an outstanding career and wish him all the best in his next chapter of life. I also wish the best to his wife, Elsa, as well as his three sons and the rest of his family.

CONGRATULATING THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois in receiving the prestigious Abilene Trophy for its support of the men and women who serve at Southern Illinois' Scott Air Force Base.

Established in 1999, the Abilene Trophy is awarded every year in recognition of the best community support for an Air Force Base. This year, the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois was selected in part because of the growing Scott Patriot Program, which allows servicemembers to identify businesses, communities, and organizations that are designated as "military friendly." The partnership between the Leadership Council and Scott Air Force Base in the STEM and cybersecurity outreach programs provides local servicemembers and the surrounding community the opportunity to work together and energize the regional economy.

The Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois and Scott Air Force Base play a vital role in our nation's military readiness. As Southwestern Illinois' largest employer, Scott Air Force Base is a nationally-respected military installation. We couldn't be happier to have organizations like the Leadership Council supporting their mission.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois and Scott Air Force Base for this incredible partnership. On behalf of Illinois' 12th Congressional District, congratulations!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was notified that I was exposed to COVID-19 and am following quarantine guidelines set by the CDC.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call No. 233 (S. 2981)—NAY; on Roll Call No. 234 (MTR for H.R. 3884)—YEA; on Roll Call No. 235 (H.R. 3884)—NAY; on Roll Call No. 236 (H. Res. 512)—YEA; on Roll Call No. 237 (S. 461)—YEA; on Roll Call No. 238 (H.R. 6395)—YEA; and on Roll Call No. 239 (H.R. 8354)—YEA.